

Applicant: Ortho Helix Limited
Kay, David B

Examiner: #4

International Application No.: PCT/US96/13570

Group Art Unit:

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For: OPEN HELICAL ORGANIC TISSUE ANCHOR
AND METHOD OF FACILITATING HEALING

Commissioner Of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This invention relates to a tissue anchor which is an open helix of biocompatible material having a slope of from 0.5 turns per centimeter to 10 turns per centimeter, a length from 3 millimeters to 75 millimeters, a diameter of from 1.5 millimeters to 11 millimeters, and an aspect ratio of from about 3 to about 5 to 1. The anchor can have a head which is capable of securing or clamping tissue together, such as holding a suture in hole to secure a ligament or tendon to bone. The anchor can also have a head which causes an inward, compressive loading for use in fastening bone to bone, orthopedic plates to bone, or cartilage to bone.

As authorized and encouraged under 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.99, applicant hereby cites as a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the following patents and/or documents, copies enclosed, which the Examiner should consider with respect to the above-identified United States Patent Application:

PATENT/DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME/COUNTRY
3,499,222	March 10, 1970	Linkow et al./U.S.
4,590,928	May 27, 1986	Hunt et al./U.S.
4,870,957	October 3, 1989	Goble et al./U.S.
5,203,787	April 20, 1993	Noblitt et al./U.S.
5,268,001	December 7, 1993	Nicholson et al./U.S.
5,417,691	May 23, 1995	Hayhurst et al./U.S.
5,370,662	December 1994	Stone et al./U.S.
5,053,047	October 1991	Yoon/U.S.
2,570,465	October 1951	Lundholm/U.S.
2,414,882	January 1947	Longfellow/U.S.
5,582,616	December 10, 1996	Boldue et al.

IN FOREIGN ART		
International Search Report PCT/US96/13570	March 6, 1997	ISA/US
652940		USSR
WO94/28811	December 1994	W.I.P.O.
374,088	June 1990	E.P.O.
1,071,297	February 1984	Soviet Union
0 663 184 A1	January 13, 1995	E.P.O.

USSR Document No. 652940 relates to a fastening member having a slotted head and a two pitch special helix member.

A copy of each publication is included for the express purpose of providing the Patent and Trademark Office with an ample opportunity to evaluate the same and to arrive at an independent assessment of their materiality, if any, with regard to the examination of the application.

In reviewing the enclosed copies of the above publications, the Examiner is requested to ignore any underscoring or highlighting which may appear because such markings may or may not have any relationship to the subject matter of the above-identified application. The copies being submitted with this Information Disclosure Statement are the best copies available at this time.

An examination of the present application considering the above documents is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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LFS/sms
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